



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: James C. Betz
Application No.: 10/700,396
Filed: 11/04/2003
Title: Threaded Hose-In-Hose Coupler
Group/Art Unit: 3679
Examiner: Aaron M. Dunwoody
Attorney Docket No.: 229-002.001 River Bend

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Honorable Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the office action of August 2, 2004.

1. New corrected drawings are submitted for Fig. 2 and Fig. 7. In Figure 2, the lead line for item 14, indicated by an arrow, generally refers to the component but has been extended to receive the draftperson's approval. Figure 7 has been amended to include reference character 147b.
2. Kindly amend the Specification as indicated on the attached Amended Specification Sheet. The single item 152 is not used and the reference to 152 at line 7, page 8 is corrected to read item 152a,b.

REMARKS

3. The allowed claims 7-11 and conditionally allowed claims 2,4-6 are noted with appreciation.
4. Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Perry (911). Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following.

The primary reference, Perry (911) discloses a rod-in-pipe assembly having an inner assembly and an outer assembly. The outer assembly includes longitudinal sleeves (9, 12). However both sleeves (9, 12) are not threadedly shiftable relative to their respective associated casing between an extended position and a retracted position to expose the inner rod assembly as is required in claim 1 of the application.

The Perry sleeves (9, 12) are not extendable relative to casings 1 and 3. The sleeves can move only in one direction, toward the inner coupling. Sleeves (9, 12) do not move away from the coupling to exposes the coupling. The joint in Perry works in a way entirely different from the joint of the application. In Perry, the joint of the outer assembly is disconnected with the loosening of the "coupling band" (11). When the Perry outer coupling joint is disconnected, sleeves (9, 12) are not threadedly shiftable relative to their respective associated casing between an extended position and a retracted position.

The Perry sleeves (9, 12) are not connectable in their said extended positions as stated in claim 1, the sleeves being separated by "body portion" (10). In claim 1 of the application, the sleeves are connectable in their extended position and are separated in their retracted position.